

*Faculty of Arts – Department of English*

**English 302.02: Contemporary Literary Theory**      Mon, Wed 3:30-4:45 SA 121

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:00 - 12:15, or by appointment  
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Course webpage: <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~jkertzer/English302.html>

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This course examines the ambitions, assumptions and methods of a range of contemporary critical practices such as formalism, structuralism, deconstruction, feminism and gender studies, new historicism, psychoanalytic criticism, and cultural and ideological critique; and it tests these theories by applying them to selected literary texts.

Prerequisite: one full-course equivalent of English and/or Comparative Literature, or consent of the Department.

***Texts***

Philip Rice & Patricia Waugh, ed. *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*, 4 ed. (Oxford/Arnold)  
Nicholas Birns, *Theory After Theory* (Broadview)  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*  
Margaret Atwood, *The Journals of Susanna Moodie* (Oxford)  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
Robert Kroetsch, *Seed Catalogue* (Turnstone)

***Assignments***

<i>Fall term</i>	<i>Winter term</i>
response - 10% due Oct. 22	group presentation - 20%
essay 1 - 15% due Nov. 21	essay 2 - 20%
test 15% (last class of Fall term Dec 5)	final exam scheduled by Registrar (April 19-30) - 20%

All assignments must be submitted to receive a passing grade in this course. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (eg. A- to B+) for each business day they are overdue. Topics for assignments will be distributed in advance, and the nature of each assignment will be explained in class. Any student requiring further assistance in planning or writing essays should consult with the instructor during office hours. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.

Students should hand essays and term work directly to their instructors, and a copy of their work should be kept in case of loss. Although essays may be dropped off at the dropbox in the Dept. of English Office, students should check with instructors that they have been received. Essays cannot be accepted via e-mail and cannot normally be resubmitted for higher grades. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

The University of Calgary's official grading system is used in this course:

A+ / A (4.0), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3), B (3.0), B- (2.7), C+ (2.3), C (2.0), C- (1.7), D+ (1.3), D (1.0), F (0)

For greater precision I also use split grades for assignments: A+ (4.3), A/A- (3.85), A-/B+ (3.5), B+/B (3.15), B/B- (2.85), B-/C+ (2.5), C/C+ (2.15), C/C- (1.85), C-/D+ (1.5), D/D+ (1.15)

Please consult our webpages regularly for a list of topics, quotations, explanations and links to other webpages: <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~jkertzer/English302.html>

### English 302: Contemporary Literary Theory - Preliminary Schedule, Fall 2012

Rice & Waugh, *Modern Literary Theory*; readings from Nicholas Birns, *Theory After Theory*

<b>Sep 10</b> Introduction: 4 theoretical challenges	<b>Sep 12</b> theoretical knowledge; the problematic consensus, community; theory
<b>Sep 17</b> 4 seminal texts 18-42 - Marx, Freud	<b>Sep 19</b> 4 seminal texts - Saussure, de Beauvoir
<b>Sep 24</b> <u>Formalism</u> - Shklovsky 49 Birns, "Preface" - "the resolved symbolic"	<b>Sep 26</b> <u>Formalism</u> - Brooks 52
<b>Oct 1</b> <u>Structuralism</u> / <u>textuality</u> - Barthes 76, Genette 65 Birns on Barthes (36)	<b>Oct 3</b> <u>Structuralism</u> / <u>narrative</u> - Genette 65, Lodge 85
<b>Oct 8</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>Oct 10</b> <u>Structuralism</u> : Lodge & Hemingway "Cat in the Rain" 100
<b>Oct 15</b> Hemingway "Cat in the Rain" 100 <u>Social theories</u> : form & content - Lukacs 108, Williams 122	<b>Oct 17</b> <u>Social theories</u> : Williams 122, Adorno 114
<b>Oct 22</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> ASSIGNMENT: RESPONSE DUE <u>Social theories</u> : ideology - Adorno 114, Balibar & Macherey 134	<b>Oct 24</b> F.S. Fitzgerald <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
<b>Oct 29</b> <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	<b>Oct 31</b> <i>Gatsby</i>
<b>Nov 5</b> <u>Psychological theories</u> : Freud 24, Beauvoir 41	<b>Nov 7</b> <u>Psychological theories</u> : Showalter 145
<b>Nov 12</b> <i>Reading / Remembrance Day</i>	<b>Nov 14</b> <u>Feminist theories</u> : Gilbert & Gubar 155
<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Nov 21</b> 2 <sup>ND</sup> ASSIGNMENT: ESSAY DUE

<u>Feminist theories</u> - Kolodny 163	<u>Feminist/cultural theories</u> - bell hooks 362
<i>Nov 26</i> <u>Feminist/cultural theories</u> - Cixous 229, Irigaray 236	<i>Nov 28</i> M. Atwood, <i>Journals of Susanna Moodie</i>
<i>Dec 3</i> <i>Journals of Susanna Moodie</i>	<i>Dec 5</i> IN-CLASS ESSAY (question given in advance)

### **Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### **Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is [smrwc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smrwc@ucalgary.ca).

### **English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

### **Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



### **Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

### **Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints;>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
  - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.